

# Selected BLS Economic Indicators



## Reading

### Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and pay data** for Pennsylvania, the Reading Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. An **occupational pay relative** is a calculation of pay (wages, salaries, commission, and production bonuses) for a given metropolitan area relative to the nation as a whole; the calculation controls for differences among areas in occupational composition, establishment and occupational characteristics, and the fact that data are collected for areas at different times during the year.

| Consumer Price Index<br>(1982-84) = 100                  | April<br>2006         | April<br>2007         | Percent<br>change         |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b>                       |                       |                       |                           |
| U.S. City Average  | 201.5                 | 206.686               | 2.6                       |
| Northeast  | 214.7                 | 219.501               | 2.2                       |
| Northeast (size class B/C)*                              | 127.3                 | 129.563               | 1.8                       |
| <b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers (CPI-W)</b> |                       |                       |                           |
| U.S. City Average  | 197.2                 | 202.130               | 2.5                       |
| Northeast  | 211.0                 | 215.802               | 2.3                       |
| Northeast (size class B/C)*                              | 127.6                 | 129.856               | 1.8                       |
| <b>Producer Price Index, U.S.<br/>(1982 = 100)</b>       | <b>April<br/>2006</b> | <b>April<br/>2007</b> | <b>Percent<br/>change</b> |
| Finished goods   | 160.7                 | 165.8                 | 3.2                       |
| All commodities  | 164.3                 | 171.2                 | 4.2                       |
| Industrial commodities                                   | 168.8                 | 173.7                 | 2.9                       |

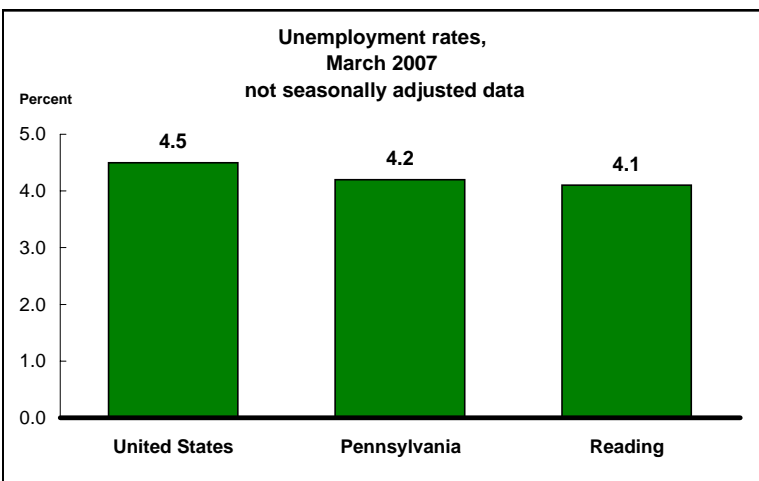
\*Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)

Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

### Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area          | March<br>2006 | March<br>2007 | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| United States | 7,255.0       | 6,913.0       | -342.0        | -4.7              |
| Pennsylvania  | 317.1         | 264.1         | -53.0         | -16.7             |
| Reading       | 10.0          | 8.2           | -1.7          | -17.5             |

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



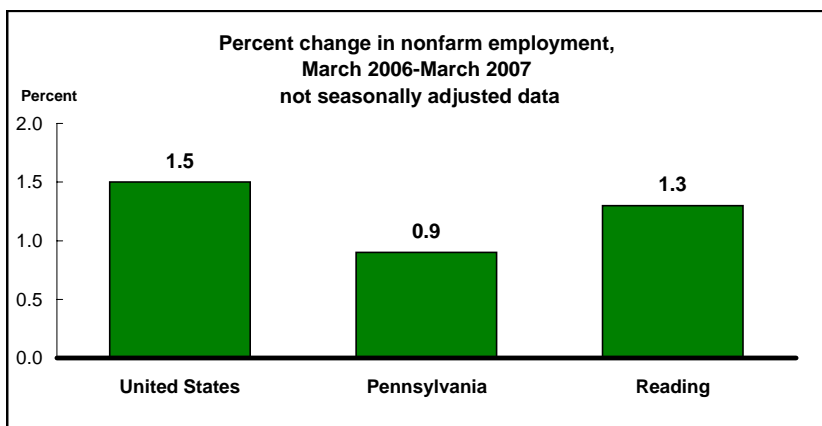
| Employment Cost Index<br>(December 2005) = 100              | 1st Qtr.<br>2006 | 1st Qtr.<br>2007 | Percent<br>change |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers</b>          |                  |                  |                   |
| United States   | 100.8            | 104.0            | 3.2               |
| Northeast   | 100.9            | 104.0            | 3.1               |
| Middle Atlantic   | 100.9            | 104.2            | 3.3               |
| <b>Occupational Pay Relatives<br/>(United States = 100)</b> | <b>July 2005</b> |                  |                   |
| <b>Reading</b>  |                  |                  |                   |
| All Occupations   |                  | 103 *            |                   |
| Management, business, and financial                         |                  | 122 *            |                   |
| Professional and related                                    |                  | 98 *             |                   |
| Service   |                  | 100              |                   |
| Sales and related   |                  | 102              |                   |
| Office and administrative support                           |                  | 99               |                   |
| Construction and extraction                                 |                  | 108 *            |                   |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair                       |                  | 101              |                   |
| Production  |                  | 103 *            |                   |
| Transportation and material moving                          |                  | 105 *            |                   |

\*The pay relative for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 10 percent level of significance.

### Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area          | March<br>2006 | March<br>2007 | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| United States | 134,868.0     | 136,835.0     | 1,967.0       | 1.5               |
| Pennsylvania  | 5,697.8       | 5,751.3       | 53.5          | 0.9               |
| Reading       | 171.2         | 173.5         | 2.3           | 1.3               |

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**Reading, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Berks County in Pennsylvania.